BRIDGWATER

Rural District Council.

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Wilberforce Thompson,

AND

THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

Richard Popham.

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

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Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year 1910.

To the

Chairman and Members of the Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of submitting to you my Report for the year 1910, and of laying before you the usual tables of vital statistics.

The District covers an area of 85,076 acres, with a population of 19,238, and is divided into a Western Division and an Eastern Division by the River Parrett. The Western Division slopes from the Quantock Hills to the Bristol Channel and the River Parrett, the character of the soil being red sandstone and clay marle. The Eastern Division is to a great extent level country, the character of the soil being clay land and Marsh land, except the portion formed by the Polden Hills which is blue lias.

The occupation of the inhabitants is chiefly agricultural, and there are no trades which have an injurious effect on the public health. The house accommodation of the working classes is good, and there are sufficient houses for the needs of the population with a sufficiency of space about the houses, and general cleanliness is maintained. Supervision is exercised over the building of new houses which are erected under the modern Bye-Laws of the L.G.B. as adopted by the Council.

Plans have been passed during the year for 19 new Buildings. All of these have been erected in accordance with the Bye-laws enforced within the District.

No action has been taken under parts I, II and III of the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

The **Water Supply** of the District is from :—

1. The Council's Water Supply.
2. The Bridgwater Town Council's Water Supply.
3. From Wells.

The Council's Water is supplied to the parishes of North Petherton, Chedzoy, Puriton, Bawdrip, Pawlett, Huntspill, Cossington. Parts of Chilton Polden, Parts of Middlezoy, Othery and Westonzoyland.

The Bridgwater Town Council's Water is supplied to Bridgwater without, Wembdon and Cannington,

Nether Stowey has its own water supply consisting of a Resevoir on the Quantock Hills from which the water is supplied to the Village by gravitation. The Water Supply of the remaining portion is from private wells.

The Council's Water Supply is in a very satisfactory condition, the average amount used was 65,000 gallons per day—the available supply varied considerably during the year, the lowest amount was in September and was 140,000 gallons per day. The highest in December and was 600,000 gallons per day.

This water takes its rise on the Quantock Hills from deep springs, and is distributed by gravitation, it is of excellent quality and free from any risk of pollution, being conveyed in pipes from its source.

During the year extensions of the Council's Water Supply have been made at Northmoor Corner and Mead's Buildings, North Petherton.

A scheme is now before the Council for supplying the whole of the village of Middlezoy.

The rainfall during the year was excessive, and the amount measured has exceeded that of any year during the past eleven years. The amount registered at Chilton Polden was 38·09 inches. At North Petherton 42·47 inches.

In 1907 the rainfall was 29·61 inches. In 1908, 23·06. In 1909, 26·37.

Rainfall during each month in inches.				Number of Days on which rain fell,
January	...	3·36	...	19
February	...	3·79	...	24
March	...	·46	...	8
April	...	2·44	...	18
May	...	2·18	...	19
June	...	5·37	...	16
July	...	2·22	...	15
August	...	4·84	...	22
September	...	·17	...	2
October	..	4·90	...	18
November	...	3·84	...	21
December	...	4·52	...	23
	Total Rainfall	38·09	Total wet days	205

The lowest temperature recorded was 12° on January 12th.

The higest 86° on July 13th.

Milk Supply. Many of the farms in this District are dairy farms, cheese-making and butter-making accounting for a considerable amount of the milk, but a large quantity is also exported to the larger towns. The milk produced in the district is of good quality and wholesome. The dairies are as a rule clean, well lighted and ventilated, and every endeavour is made by the dairymen to keep them in a wholesome condition. The Cow Sheds are as a rule fairly good, but more attention might with advantage be paid to Lime-washing and removal of manure. No action has been taken by the Council in causing dairy cows in the district to be examined by a veterinary surgeon.

The Sanitary Condition of the premises where foods are exposed for sale is satisfactory. The Slaughter-houses are kept in good condition and regularly lime-washed. There are 21 licensed slaughter-houses and 13 registered.

Action under the Sale of Food and Drugs' Act is carried out by the Police. during the year 48 samples have been taken and submitted to analysis. All of them were found to be genuine.

No action has been taken under Section 117, P.H.A., 1875.

No carcases or parts of carcases have been condemned for tuberculosis.

Sewerage and Drainage, is on the whole satisfactory. In the larger villages the sewage is received into settling-tanks which are emptied as occasion requires. Extensions of the sewers are being made every year. During the year 70 yards of 6-inch pipes and two inspection chambers were laid at North Petherton; 70 yards of 9-inch pipe at Spaxton; 40 yards of 6-inch pipe and one inspection chamber at Chedzoy; 93 yards of 6-inch pipe at Lyng; 100 yards of 6-inch pipe and two inspection chambers at Wembdon.

Excrement Disposal. Where villages are sewered the excrement is disposed of as above described. In other cases earth-closets, cess-pits, and privies are utilized. House refuse is disposed of by the occupier, no public scavenging being in vogue.

Nuisances. On the occurance of any nuisance a notice is served on the responsible person to have the matter abated, as a rule this is at once attended to. There are no nuisances unabated.

The Bye-Laws in force are Cleansing of Footways and Removal of Refuse, Prevention of Nuisances, Common Lodging Houses, Houses let in Lodgings, New Streets and Buildings, Slaughter-houses, Cemeteries and offensive Trades.

There are no Lodging-houses or Houses let in Lodgings, and only one offensive Trade.

The Sanitary Condition of the public Elementary Schools is satisfactory and the Water Supply good. The school Teachers report any cases of supposed infectious disease, and the child is visited by myself at home and a notice sent to the school Teacher to exclude the scholar when necessary. A further notice is sent to the Teacher when the scholar is free from infection. In some of the schools the class-rooms are sprayed with disinfecting fluid once every week. I should like this practice to be adopted in all the schools.

The arrangements for the medical inspection of school children are carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health.

The following Schools were closed for illness amongst the children.

Burtle:—February 18th to March 7th., for Mumps.
Bawdrip:—Sept. 29th to Oct. 31st, for Whooping Cough.
Nether Stowey:—Dec. 9th to end of year, for Whooping Cough.
Over Stowey:—Dec. 3rd to end of year, for Whooping Cough.
North Newton:- Dec. 21st to end of year, for Measles.
Lyng:—Dec. 21st to end of year, for Measles.

The Infectious Disease (notification) Act is in force in the District, and in addition to the scheduled diseases the Council have added Measles and Chicken-pox to the list of notifiable diseases. All cases reported are at once visited and steps taken to stop the spread of the disease. The subsequent disinfection of the premises is carried out by the Council's Officer. There is no Isolation Hospital in the district. During the year the Council have made arrangements by which Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is supplied free of cost to the poorer inhabitants of the district.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Notifications of this disease are sent by the District Medical Officers. The cases are visited and instructions given as to the means of preventing the spreading of the disease. Sputum flasks are supplied to those who are ill. During the past year only one case was notified. In case of death the rooms occupied by the patient are disinfected by being sprayed by Izal or Formalin. The weekly returns of deaths by the Registrar enables this to be carried out at once.

The Workhouse Infirmary has a Chalet with accommodation for two patients in which some of those admitted to the Workhouse are treated.

Factories and Workshops. There are 86 Factories and Workshops, viz:—25 Bake-houses, and 61 general Workshops, the sanitary condition of all of the above is good. Very little home work is done, only 6 people being employed in the making of wearing apparel; the houses in which they work were found in a satisfactory condition.

During some years a certain amount of imported labour is employed for pea-picking during the months of June and July. Very little accommodation is provided for the pea-pickers who find shelter in the barns and out-buildings of the farms on which they are employed, and no sanitary conveniences are provided.

The general health of the district has been good. One hundred and twenty one cases of infectious disease have been reported, and of these 6 were diphtheria, 46 scarlet fever, 2 erysipelas and 67 measles.

From the 7 chief Epidemic diseases 7 deaths were registered as against 6 in 1909, representing the very low zymotic death rate of ·38 per thousand of population.

Regarding the vital statistics of the year, 246 deaths were registered, as against 251 in 1909, representing an annual rate of mortality of 13·5 as against 13·7 in the previous year, of these 246 deaths, 124 occurred in people aged 65 years and upwards, and 26 under one year of age.

In the Western Division of the District 137 deaths were registered and in the Eastern Division 109.

Of the several causes of deaths, 15 resulted from Phthisis; 40 from Pneumonia, Bronchitis; 26 from Heart Disease; 10 from Injuries and 2 Suicides.

A point worthy of note is the large increase of the birth rate during the year, viz:—23·7 as against 19·9 in 1909, and 21·2 the average for the past ten years. The Infants' mortality is also very low, being 60·2, as against 80·2 the average for the past ten years.

The Bridgwater Rural District is divided into 4 Registration Districts, viz:—The North Petherton District; The Middlezoy District; The Huntspill District and the Bridgwater (without) and Cannington District.

Beloware given particulars of the population, birth rate and death rate of each of these districts. together with the number of cases of infectious disease occurring, and the villages in which they occured.

NORTH PETHERTON DISTRICT.

Population, 6,425.

		1909.	1910.
Birth Rate	...	19·7	23·5
Death Rate	...	15·8	15·5

Infectious Diseases reported:—

North Petherton. 14 cases Scarlet Fever, 2 cases of Erysipelas, 17 cases of measles.

Broomfield. 3 cases of Scarlet Fever.

Thurloxton. 1 case of Measles.

Spaxton. 3 cases of Diphtheria, 6 Scarlet Fever, 1 Measles.

St. Michæl Church 5 cases of Measles.

MIDDLEZOY DISTRICT.

Population, 1967.

		1909.	1910.
Birth Rate	...	19·3	23·4
Death Rate	...	8·6	10·2

Infectious Diseases reported.—

Westonzoyland. 5 cases Scarlet Fever, 2 Measles.

Middlezoy. 3 cases of Diphtheria, 3 Scarlet Fever, and 27 Measles.

Othery. 1 case Scarlet Fever, 12 Measles.

Lyng. 1 case of Measles.

HUNTSPILL DISTRICT.

Population, 6,350.

		1909.	1910.
Birth Rate	...	21·1	23·5
Death Rate	...	14·6	13·7

Infectious Diseases reported:—

Shapwick. 1 case of Scarlet Fever.

Huntspill. 10 cases of Scarlet Fever.

Cossington. 1 case of Measles.

BRIDGWATER (WITHOUT) AND CANNINGTON DISTRICT.

Population, 3,496.

		1909.	1910.
Birth Rate	...	18·6	24·6
Death Rate	...	15·0	10·6

Infectious Diseases reported:—

Bridgwater (Without). 3 cases of Scarlet Fever.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILBERFORCE THOMPSON.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

For the Year ending December, 1910.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on Work done in my Department for the year ending December 1910.

I have during the year, made Inspections of the whole of the District from time to time and have had brought to my notice 511 complaints, all of which have had my best attention, in cases where necessary Statutory Notices have been served by Council's direction, and the following nuisances have been abated :—

Statutory Notices served and complied with			...	66
Defective privies	Ditto		...	12
Ditches foul	Ditto	...	...	30
Pigs kept improperly	...	...	.	15
Defective drainage	...	...	...	33
Wells polluted ...	...	...	...	3
Premises in a dirty state	...	...	...	25
Council's drains choked and cleared		...	...	31
Disinfecting rooms after Fever and Diphtheria			...	59
Disinfecting rooms after Typhus		...	...	6
Dangerous buildings pulled down		...	...	2
Over-crowding cases	...	...	...	2
Drains tested ...	...	...	...	15
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	1
Wells condemned	...	...	...	1
Council's Cesspools cleaned out		...	...	6
Privies foul ...	...	...	...	12
Old W.C.'s condemned	...	...	...	12
New W.C.'s built ...	...	...	...	12

One house has had all the Bedding destroyed and new duplicated by Council's orders.

Samples of Water taken by orders from Council, 18 of which were condemned as unfit for dietic use 20

Private samples of Water taken, 2 were returned as good and 1 as unfit for dietic use.

Butchers' Licenses granted	...	...	...	6
Knackers' Licenses granted	..	...	...	1

Bake-houses, Milk Shops, Dairies and Slaughter-houses have been frequently inspected, and where found to be in an unsanitary state the occupier's attention has been called to same, and I am pleased to say they have readily had nuisances abated.

I have commenced the house to house Inspection which will come for the 1911 Report, having received the books on January 1st, 1911.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD POPHAM.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of the Whole District during 1910 and previous years.

Name of District—Bridgwater Rural District.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under one year		At all Ages.				
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Number.	Rate.*		Number.	Rate.*
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
1900	20326	372	20·5	39	107·4	228	12·7		228	12·7
1901	16680	357	21·3	38	101·8	200	11·9		200	11·9
1902	16680	379	22·7	26	68·6	228	13·6		228	13·6
1903	16680	366	21·3	26	71·0	197	11·8		197	11·8
1904	16680	364	21·2	37	101·6	224	13·4		224	13·4
1905	16680	381	22·8	22	57·7	235	14·0		235	14·0
1906	18238	395	21·6	29	73·4	224	12·2	29	253	13·8
1907	18238	384	21·0	29	75·5	225	12·3	23	248	13·6
1908	18238	387	21·2	23	59·4	215	11·8	22	237	13·0
1909	18238	364	19·9	31	85·1	228	12·5	23	251	13·7
Average of years 1900-1909.	17667	374	21·2	30	80·2	220	12·4		230	13·0
1910	18238	432	23·7	26	60·2	218	11·9	28	246	13·5

*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 85,076

Total population at all ages 18,238
Number of inhabited houses 4,260
Average number of persons per house 4·28
} At Census 1901.

TABLE II.

Vital Satistics of seperate Localities in 1910 and previous years.

Name of District—Bridgwater Rural District.

Name of Locality.	NORTH PETHERTON DISTRICT.				MIDDLEZOY DISTRICT.				HUNTSPILL DISTRICT.				BRIDGWATER (WITHOUT) AND CANNINGTON DISTRICT.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1900	4568	111	60	12	2366	45	28	2	4556	42	48	8				
1901	4568	96	55	10	1967	44	25	4	6350	146	85	18				
1902	5344	99	52	9	1967	52	32	6	6350	142	87	5				
1903	4568	108	56	8	1967	31	23	5	6350	152	67	7				
1904	4568	107	54	7	1967	46	30	5	6350	149	88	15				
1905	4568	107	64	8	1967	46	31	2	6350	163	92	8				
1906	4568	101	64	9	1967	36	32	4	6350	150	93	10				
1907	6425	115	91	6	1967	48	34	5	6350	146	86	17	3496	75	37	6
1908	6425	143	77	6	1967	34	31	1	6350	132	89	13	3496	78	40	3
1909	6425	127	89	7	1967	38	17	3	6350	134	93	18	3496	65	52	3
Averages of Years 1900 to 1909.	5202	111	66	8	2007	42	28	3	6170	135	82	11				
1910	6425	151	100	14	1967	46	22	2	6350	149	87	5	3496	86	37	5

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910, In the Bridgwater Rural District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in the whole District. At Ages. Years.							Total cases notified in each Locality			
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	North Petherton District.	Middlezoy District.	Huntspill District.	Bridgwater (Without) and Cannington District.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...	6		4	1		1		3	3		
Erysipelas	2					2		2			
Scarlet Fever	46		9	35	1	1		23	9	11	3
Measles	67	1	17	39	8	2		24	42	1	
TOTALS ...	121	1	30	75	9	6		52	54	12	3

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1910.

Name of District—Bridgwater Rural District,

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of Residents belonging to localities whether occurring in or beyond the District.			
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	N. Petherton District.	Middlezoy. District.	Huntspill. District.	Bridgwater (Without) and Cannington District.
Scarlet fever	1			1				1			
Whooping Cough	3	2	1					2		1	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1		1					1			
Epidemic Influenza	6					3	3	3	1	2	
Diarrhœa	2		1				1	2			
Enteritis	2	1					1		2		
Puerperal fever	2						2		2		
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	15				6	9		11		4	
Other tubercular diseases	1			1				1			
Cancer, malignant disease	16					5	11	6	2	5	3
Bronchitis	22	2				4	16	8		14	
Pneumonia	18	3	1	1	1	5	7	7	4	6	1
Pleurisy	2					2		1			1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	2					2		1		1	
Premature Birth	4	4						2		2	
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1					1				1	
Heart Diseases	26			1	2	5	18	7	3	13	3
Accidents	10	1		1	1	4	3			5	5
Suicides	2					2		1	1		
All other Causes	110	13		3	3	29	62	46	7	33	24
ALL CAUSES	246	26	4	8	13	71	124	100	22	87	37

TABLE V.

Name of District--Bridgwater Rural District.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes.	Certified	4	4	2	1	11	1	2	2	2	2	1		3	1	25
	Uncertified									1						1
i. Common infectious Diseases.	Small -pox															
	Chicken-pox															
	Measles															
	Scarlet Fever															
	Diphtheria : Croup															
	Whooping Cough				1	1					1					2
ii. Diarrhœal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms															
	Enteritis. Muco-enteris Gastro-enteritis ...									1						1
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh															
iii. Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth	2	1	1		4										4
	Congenital Defects						1									1
	Injury at Birth															
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation															
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus			1		1		1							1	3
iv. Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis ...															
	Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica ...															
	Other Tuberculous Diseases .															
v. Other Causes.	Erysipelas															
	Syphilis															
	Rickets										1			1		2
	Meningitis (*not Tuberculous* ...															
	Convulsions									1				1		2
	Bronchitis						1	1								2
	Laryngitis															
	Pneumonia									1		1		1		3
	Suffocation, overlaying ...		1			1										1
	Other Causes	2	2			4			1							5
		4	4	2	1	11	1	2	2	3	2	1		3	1	26

Population estimated to middle of 1910, 18238.

Births in the Year { Legt., 422. Illegt., 10. } Deaths in the Year of { Legt. Infants, 26. Illegt. Infants, 0. }

Deaths from all causes, at all ages—246.

TABLE VI.

Births in the Bridgwater Rural District during the Four Quarters of the Year 1910.

Arranged in the various Registration Districts.

	1st. Qr.	2nd. Qr.	3rd. Qr.	4th. Qr.	TOTAL.
North Petherton District	31	35	40	45	151
Middlezoy District	10	10	8	18	46
Huntspill District	39	35	37	38	149
Bridgwater (Without) and Cannington District ...	21	19	29	17	86
					432

Rate per 1000 1909—19·9
Ditto 1910—23·7